

Media, PA — Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) offered his full support of Judge Sonia Sotomayor, President Obama's nomination to serve on the Supreme Court following the retirement of Justice David Souter. Pointing out that the average time from nomination to confirmation has been 72 days for the past five justices, the Congressman concurred with the President's assessment that the Senate should be able to finish the process before the August recess, giving the new justice time to prepare for and participate when the Court confers in September and selects cases to be heard this year.

"Judge Sotomayor's background in terms of her life experiences, her success in a variety of roles and her judicial track record makes her a worthy replacement for Justice Souter," said Congressman Sestak. "She has served impressively as a big-city prosecutor, a corporate litigator, a federal trial judge on the U.S. District Court, and an appellate judge on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Importantly for a member of our nation's highest judicial authority, she has gained bipartisan support as a judge, having first been nominated by Republican President George H. W. Bush for District Court in Southern New York, and then by Democratic President Bill Clinton for the Second Circuit Court of Appeals."

The Congressman further mentioned the remarkable drive and intelligence that the nominee has demonstrated from her childhood, when she grew up in a public housing project in the South Bronx, to graduating summa cum laude from Princeton, and serving as an editor of the Yale Law Journal during her studies in New Haven. On the Second Circuit, she has participated in more than 3000 panel decisions and authored roughly 400 opinions, handling difficult issues of constitutional law, complex procedural matters, and lawsuits involving complicated business organizations. She brings more federal judicial experience to the Supreme Court than any justice in 100 years, and more overall judicial experience than anyone confirmed for the Court in the past 70 years.

"President Obama's background as a constitutional law professor has served him well in selecting Judge Sotomayor," said Congressman Sestak. "I support his approach of looking for a nominee who, like Judge Sotomayor, understands that championing our Constitutional values demands that a judge understand how laws impact Americans' everyday lives. I endorse Judge Sotomayor and call on Senators to also support her, and have a fair confirmation process as well as hearings based on her extraordinary credentials. I am optimistic that Senators from both parties will see the impressive qualities in Judge Sotomayor, just as Presidents Bush and Clinton did. These qualities should lead to a smooth confirmation process."

Former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, and was Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships, with more than 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft, that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of “Deep Blue,” the Navy’s anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the “Global War on Terrorism.” He previously served in the White House as President Clinton’s Director for Defense Policy and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, he is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.

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